

## **Recommendation to Change the Accreditation Status for Vanguard University**

**May 2011**

### **Overview**

This item is a follow-up to the accreditation visits to Vanguard University which were conducted in February 2008 and February 2009.

### **2011 Revisit Team Recommendation**

1. That the two remaining stipulations be removed.
2. That the accreditation decision be changed from ACCREDITATION WITH TECHNICAL STIPULATIONS to ACCREDITATION

### **Background**

A COA accreditation team conducted a visit at Vanguard University on February 24-27, 2008. On the basis of the accreditation team report, the COA made the following accreditation decision for Vanguard University and all of its credential programs: *Accreditation with Substantive Stipulations*.

The institution was required to respond to the stipulations and prepare for a re-visit within one year of the accreditation action. The revisit took place in February 2009. In April 2009, the COA changed the status of *Accreditation with Substantive Stipulations* for Vanguard University to *Accreditation with Technical Stipulations* and removed two of the stipulations. The COA required Vanguard University to address the remaining two stipulations in their next Biennial Report due in the fall of 2010.

Vanguard University submitted their 2010 biennial report and worked with staff and the re-visit team to address the two remaining stipulations. The report of these activities is presented here for the COA's review and action.

Presented on the following page is a table of the COA's decisions for May 2008 and April 2009 as well as the May 2011 recommendations for the COA's consideration and action. Please note that the terms used "Substantive Stipulations" and "Technical Stipulations" were terms used by the COA at the time of the original visit for Vanguard. The COA has subsequently revised its terminology for varying levels of severity for stipulations.

<b>Prior COA Accreditation Decisions and 2011 Team Recommendations</b>		
<b>May 2008</b>	<b>April 2009</b>	<b>2011 Recommendations</b>
<i>After initial site visit February 2008 visit</i>	<i>After February 2009 Revisit</i>	<i>Information submitted in 2010 Biennial Report</i>
<b>Action: Accreditation with Substantive Stipulations</b>	<b>Action: The COA removed two stipulations (#2, 4) and retained two Stipulations (#1 and #3). The accreditation decision was changed to Accreditation with Technical Stipulations</b>	<b>Recommendation: The remaining two stipulations be removed with follow up in subsequent accreditation activities. The accreditation decision be changed from Accreditation with Technical Stipulations to Accreditation</b>
<i>Following were the stipulations:</i>	<i>Following were the remaining Stipulations:</i>	
1. That the unit provide evidence that all program and Common Standards less than fully met are now met.	The revisit team determined that the Common Standards were met, but that 2 program standards remained Met with Concerns (Program Standards 3 and 14). Therefore, the stipulation remained.	Give that the two remaining Program Standards (Program Standards 3 and 14) are now determined to be Met, the team recommends removal of the stipulation with follow up during accreditation activities (next biennial report).
2. That the unit provide evidence of a comprehensive program evaluation system involving program participants, graduates, and other stakeholders. The system must provide evidence of how the data is analyzed and used for program improvement.	Stipulation removed, April 2009	
3. That the unit provide evidence that candidates are provided with a program that balances theoretical and practical applications with focus on the teaching of reading, equity, diversity and access to the core curriculum for all children,	The 2009 report indicated that all areas identified in the stipulation had been addressed with the exception of Standards 3 and 14.	Team recommends removal of the stipulation with continued follow up during accreditation activities (next biennial report and Program Assessment).

<b>Prior COA Accreditation Decisions and 2011 Team Recommendations</b>		
<b><i>May 2008</i></b>	<b><i>April 2009</i></b>	<b><i>2011 Recommendations</i></b>
Special Education and basic foundations of child and adolescent development, human learning, and educational psychology. (Program Standard 3 and 14)		
4. That a focused revisit take place in one year, focusing on a) assessment of candidate competence in the multiple and single subject credential programs and b) the three stipulations above.	Stipulation removed, April 2009	

**Report of the Continuing Accreditation for  
Vanguard University  
April 7, 2011**

**Institution:** Vanguard University

**Dates of  
Follow-up:** April 7, 2011

**Accreditation Team  
Recommendations:** *Accreditation*

The team recommends that:

1. The remaining Stipulation from the 2008 accreditation revisit be removed.
2. The accreditation decision be changed from *Accreditation with Technical Stipulations* to *Accreditation*.

**Rationale:**

The unanimous recommendation of **Accreditation** was based upon the institutional response to the stipulations and thorough review of the institutional 2010 Biennial Report; additional supporting documents; interviews with institutional administrators, along with additional information requested from program leadership during the Biennial Report review. The team obtained sufficient and consistent information that led to a high degree of confidence in making overall and programmatic judgments about the professional education unit's operation. The decision pertaining to the accreditation status of the institution was based upon the following:

Common Standards

Stipulation 2 related to the Common Standards was reviewed by the revisit team and removed by the COA in April 2009.

Program Standards

Findings from the Biennial Report and additional documentation was provided for the programs in which all standards had not been met relative to the stipulations. After additional discussions with unit administrators and verifying documentation, the revisit team considered whether the Standards were met, met with concerns, or not met. The following programs were reviewed with regard to the stipulations: Multiple Subject and Single Subject programs. In the Multiple Subject and Single Subject programs, all Standards are now found to be **Met**.

## Follow-up Team Findings on the Stipulations (2011)

### Stipulation #1

*That the unit provide evidence that all program and Common Standards less than fully met are now met. (These now include only program standards 3 and 14.)*

### Stipulation #3

*That the unit provide evidence of balancing theory and practice in reading, equity and diversity, special education, and foundations.*

## Follow-up Revisit Team Findings

In 2009, the team determined that all Common Standards were met and that 17 of 19 program standards were met. Only Program Standard 3 and 14 were determined still to be less than fully met. Based upon unit administrative interviews and review of documentary evidence provided for the Biennial Report, the 2011 revisit team found that Vanguard has provided evidence that all Program Standards are now **Met**.

### Program Standards (2011)

Program Standard	2009 Revisit Findings	2011 Findings
Program Standard 3: Relationship Between Theory and Practice	Met with Concerns	Met
Program Standard 14: Preparation to Teach Special Populations in the General Education Classroom	Met with Concerns	Met

	Total # of Program Standards	Number of Program Standards		
		Met	Met with Concerns	Not Met
Multiple Subject, with Internship	19	19	0	0
Single Subject, with Internship	19	19	0	0

## Follow-up Revisit Team Recommendation

The two outstanding stipulations be removed.

On the basis of this recommendation, the institution is authorized to recommend candidates for the following Credentials:

### Initial Teaching Credentials

- Multiple Subject Programs  
Multiple Subject
- Single Subject Programs  
Single Subject

### Advanced Teaching Credential

- Clear Credential Program

## Accreditation Team

### Team Member:

**Mel Hunt**  
St. Mary's College

### Staff to the Visit

**Helen Hawley**, Consultant

## Documents Reviewed

Biennial Report  
Course Syllabi  
Course Materials  
Library Resources

Schedule of Classes  
Advisement Documents  
Information Booklets

## Multiple Subject Credential Program Single Subject Credential Program

### Revisit Team Findings on the Program Standards (2009 and 2010)

During the February 2009 revisit the team reviewed seven Program Standards in the Multiple and single subject programs that were Met with Concerns or Not Met. After review of the institutional self-study and supporting documentation, and the completion of interviews with candidates, intern teachers, faculty, school administrators, supervising practitioners and School of Education administrative representatives, the team determined that all of the Multiple Subject and Single Subject program standards were met except for Standards 3 and 14 which were met with concerns.

In 2011, after review of the Biennial Report, supporting documentation, and subsequent discussions with School of Education administrative representatives, the team determined that all of the Multiple Subject and Single Subject program standards are now **Met**. The summary of the 2009 revisit and 2011 findings are included below.

2009 Revisit Findings	2011 Findings
<b>Standard 3: Relationship Between Theory and Practice</b>	
<b>Met with Concerns:</b> The revisit team found evidence that Program faculty are developing class assignments that will integrate the use of primary sources into the course assessment process. The completion of these efforts will be reported in the next Biennial Report submitted by the program.	<b>Met:</b> Clarifying discussions with the unit administrator and reviewing additional evidence provided for the Biennial Report, the team found that Vanguard faculty have developed a primary source reader which includes foundational education theorists. Their syllabi now reflect assignments in which candidates reflect upon and incorporate education theories into their lesson plans and instructional rationales. The team encourages Vanguard to continue to update and keep their primary sources current and relevant to the California K-12 public education system. The accreditation process provides for this to be confirmed in subsequent years' activities.

2009 Revisit Findings	2011 Findings
<b>Standard 14: Preparation to Teach Special Populations in the General Education Classroom</b>	
<p><b>Met with Concerns:</b> While the program has strengthened the instruction provided on serving students with special needs, that module is currently taught near the end of the program sequence. The team recommended that this module be shifted to a point early enough in the program so that students can use the material to assist them in responding to the TPA tasks and in teaching to all students, including those with disabilities, in their Advanced Student Teaching placement. Additional access to professional literature needs to be provided relating to special education issues and foundations as was noted under PS 3. The new program course sequence and copies of the professional literature will be included as part of the next Biennial Report.</p>	<p><b>Met:</b> The Biennial report revealed that the module on teaching students with special needs has been moved to the beginning of student teaching which indicates that the standard has been minimally met. Since the Vanguard candidates complete TPA 1 and 2 in the semester before they begin student teaching, the team recommends and Vanguard has agreed to move the special needs module into the first semester of the program as soon as their institutional processes allow. The accreditation process now provides for this to be confirmed in subsequent years' activities.</p>